

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREA QUESTION AT THE UN: CONSULTATIONS

REF: SEOUL 1227

WELLINGTON PASS HABIB

1. APPRECIATE THOUGHTFUL AND DETAILED REPORT OF INITIAL
CONSULTATIONS WITH FONMIN PAK.

2. WITH REGARD TO FONMIN PAK'S PROPOSED APPROACH TO
KOREAN QUESTION, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE BELIEVE IT
IS PREMATURE TO FIX ON ANY SINGLE APPROACH. WE HAVE NO
PROBLEM WITH CONSIDERING AS ONE OF SEVERAL OPTIONS
POSSIBILITY OF INDUCING ASEANS AND OTHERS TO INTRODUCE
"COMPROMISE" RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO US.
WE HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS, HOWEVER, ABOUT PAK'S SCENARIO
WHICH WOULD DELAY ANY SUCH DECISIONS UNTIL ALMOST TOO LATE

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IN THE GAME.

3. FOLLOWING ARE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
RAISED YOUR MEETING WITH FONMIN:

A. CORE GROUP MEETING: EITHER MARCH 8 OR 9 DATE PROPOSED

BY FONMIN ARE SATISFACTORY, BUT WOULD PREFER MARCH 9. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO PARTICIPANTS THAT THE SESSION IS ONE OF CONSULTATION AND EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS, NOT DECISION MAKING OR ADOPTION OF SPECIFIC TACTICS. IT IS IMPORTANT THE ROK SHOULD NOT PUT FORWARD ITS OWN SCENARIO AS A PREFERRED COURSE OF ACTION, BUT SHOULD LEAD THE DISCUSSIONS FROM A STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES INTO A CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATE MEANS FOR ACHIEVING THEM AND AN EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEMS WE MAY FACE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

B. QUESTION OF PRIORITY: THIS MAY BE JUST AS IMPORTANT TO US NOW AS IT WAS WHEN WE HAD HOPES OF DEFEATING HOSTILE RESOLUTION. LOSS OF PRIORITY WOULD INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT OUR OWN RESOLUTION, SHOULD WE INTRODUCE ONE, WOULD BE DEFEATED.

C. TIMING: WE HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT KOREAN SCENARIO, PARTICULARLY RELATED TO TIMING OF SUBMISSION FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. UNDER SCENARIO OUTLINED BY FONMIN WE WOULD BE HARD PUT TO MOUNT EFFECTIVE LOBBYING CAMPAIGN BEFORE UNGA WHEREAS, AS WE SEE IT, IT WILL BE NECESSARY AT MINIMUM TO OUTLINE MAJOR PROVISIONS OF ANY RESOLUTION WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE GA TO MAXIMIZE SUPPORT. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY WANT TO GIVE FRIENDLY AND UNCOMMITTED STATES A RATIONALE FOR AVOIDING COMMITMENT, PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP MACHINERY, TO A PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION. FURTHER, TO HAVE ANY CHANCE AT ALL OF REDUCING SUPPORT FOR A HOSTILE RESOLUTION WE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE EITHER TO PUT FORWARD OUR OWN PROPOSAL OR AT LEAST ILLUSTRATE THE KIND OF RESOLUTION WE WOULD ACCEPT. FURTHER WE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE EARLY DIALOGUE WITH ASEAN OR OTHERS IF THEY WERE TO UNDERTAKE ANY MEANINGFUL INITIATIVE. WE CANNOT EXPECT OTHERS TO TAKE INITIATIVES AT LAST MOMENT.

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D. STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT PARK AND FONMIN MEETING:
WE FRANKLY SEE LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT PARK AS OUTLINED BY FONMIN. INDEED, LIKELIHOOD WOULD BE THAT PARK STATEMENT WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS MEANING ROKG HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON UN. THIS WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING OUR POSITION WITHIN UNGA CONTEXT. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE NO

DESIRE TO FORCE FONMIN CONFERENCE PROPOSAL ON ROKG.
WHILE WE BELIEVE ITS IMPACT WOULD BE LIMITED BUT USEFUL,
DECISION IS SOLELY UP TO KOREANS.

4. WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY FONMIN PARK'S GENERAL
APPROACH WHICH, IF FOLLOWED, WOULD EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDE

ANY ACTIONS ON THE PART OF ROK, US AND OUR SUPPORTERS
TO PREPARE FOR UNGA DEBATE. INDEED, PARK'S APPROACH
IS BASED ON SUCH A PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT AS TO
ALMOST INSURE OUR DEFEAT ON THIS ISSUE IN NEW YORK.
IN EFFECT IT APPEARS THAT ROKG HAS ALREADY DECIDED
THAT IT WOULD RATHER SIT ON SIDELINES, LEAVING TO
USG BURDEN OF DEFENDING ITSELF (AND ROK) IN ANY UN
DEBATE. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS.

5. FOR USUN: WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS, PARTICULARLY
ON ISSUES OF TIMING AND PRIORITY. MAW

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